

**OFFICE OF CENTRAL INSPECTION
CITY OF WICHITA**

POLICY STATEMENT/INTERPRETATION

DATE: March 28, 1996

SUBJECT: Unisex Accessible Restrooms

CODE

SECTION(S) : ADA Sec. 4.1.6

QUESTION: When is a unisex accessible restroom allowed?

ANSWER: In alterations (which include additions), ADA allows the installation of at least one unisex restroom per floor, in lieu of modifying existing toilet facilities when the modification required is technically infeasible. In buildings with public access, the unisex restrooms shall be located in the same area as existing toilet facilities. In buildings where the restroom facilities are used only by the employees, new unisex rest rooms may be provided at a location elsewhere in the building, as long as it is at a location convenient for all employees of the building.

Unisex restrooms may not be used to satisfy the minimum number of fixtures required by DEC for the entire facility. Therefore, if an addition to a building increases the number of plumbing fixtures required by DEC above what is already provided in the existing building, accessible restroom facilities will be required to be added for both sexes, either by modification of existing facilities to comply with ADA or by addition of facilities for both sexes to meet the required plumbing fixture count.

In small alterations or additions where additional plumbing fixtures are not triggered by the addition/alteration, restrooms in full compliance with ADA will not be required if modification of existing restroom facilities or the addition of a new unisex restroom exceeds the twenty percent disproportional clause of the ADA. However, other items will be required to make the path of travel accessible to the extent possible without going over the 20 percent.

This policy is not applicable to change of occupancies where the change is to a more restrictive and higher density (as to occupant load) use, such as from a retail or warehouse occupancy to a restaurant. Fully accessible restroom facilities will be required with these changes of occupancies.